

SOUVENIR

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Trip on the River St. John

New Brunswick

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FAMOUS REVERSING FALLS, ST. JOHN, N. B.

OF the many rivers that pour their waters into the Atlantic, between the mouth of the St. Lawrence and the Gulf of Mexico, the St. John is the largest and in its natural features the most notable. From its source in Northern Maine to its outlet in the Bay of Fundy the river runs a course of 450 M.; and, with its tributaries, drains an area of 26,000 square miles, a territory larger than the Province of Nova Scotia. Twenty-five counties contribute to its waters, namely, four in Maine, seven in the Province of Quebec and in New Brunswick every county save one, the County of Gloucester.

No river on the Atlantic seaboard, with the exception of the St. Lawrence, has such magnificent reaches and lake-like expansions as the Saint John, or can compare with it in the extent of navigable water. On the lower St. John, at Boar's Head and off the Minister's Face in the Kennebecasis, the water is more than 200 feet in depth - a depth greater than is to be found in the Bay of Fundy between St. John and Digby. At least an equal depth is found in Lake Temiscouata, 280 miles from the sea.

The curious "Reversing Falls" at the mouth of the river have attracted the attention of visitors from abroad from the time of Champlain to the present hour. The reason of this strange phenomenon is easily stated. In the harbour, below the falls, the tide rises about twenty-six feet. At high tide the water of the bay pours through the narrow gateway between the cliffs at the Suspension Bridge causing a very strong and rapid fall up stream. But the passage between the cliffs being little more than two hundred feet wide, the water spreads over the lake-like expansions of the river above the falls, so that the rise at the steamboat wharves is hardly noticeable. At low tide the pent-up waters rush outward creating a really formidable and very imposing rapid in an opposite direction. Curious Indian legends connected with the falls will be found in Dr. Raymond's History of the St. John River.

A glance at the map will show the remarkable character of the "reaches" of the lower St. John. These occupy a series of natural depressions, or troughs, parallel to each other and to the greater trough of the Bay of Fundy. They are four in number, viz. the Kennebecasis Bay, the Washademoak and the Jemseg and Grand Lake.

The river retains the name given to it by Champlain in honor of its discovery on St. John's Day, the 24th of June, 1604. By the Indians it was called Woclastook. At the time of its discovery there was a considerable village on Navy Island at the mouth of the river, which L'Escarbat, the French historian, speaks of as the town of Ouigoudi. The peninsula opposite, now occupied by the City of St. John, the natives called Men-ah-quesk, which is said to mean "the abode of mighty people," but Indian derivations are not always to be trusted.

Ascending the river the rugged features of the Narrows should be closely observed. The limestone rocks are very bold and picturesque. Immense deposits of the best of lime are hidden away in the cliffs on either side.



THE MINISTER'S FACE, KENNEBECASIS BAY.

Were it not for the almost prohibitive duty placed by our neighbours on this commodity, lime burning would probably become our leading industry. At one place in the Narrows those initiated can clearly discern on the face of the cliff the dignified profile of an Indian Chief with imposing head-dress and features. The profile must be viewed at the right moment and in the right prospective. One of the many Indian legends of Glooscap is connected with the spot.

As we ascend the river, the banks, particularly that on the west side, are dotted with summer cottages and suburban residences of well-to-do St. John people.

Boar's Head, a remarkable promontory, marks the southerly termination of Kennebecasis Bay. At its base the water is 220 feet deep, the greatest depth found in the river.

Long Reach, not far above, is one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the world, extending for a distance of 18 miles in a perfectly straight channel. At

the foot of the Reach is the very attractive suburban villa of Woodman's Point, and adjacent to it the site of Fort Boishebert, where the French made their last stand at the time of English occupation of the Valley of the St. John. The little river Nerepis here flows into the St. John. This is a beautiful stream for a quiet paddle in the Indian bark canoe.

The most conspicuous features of the Long Reach, in order ascending, are the "Devil's Back," Oak Point, and "The Mistake." A little above the Beulah Camp Grounds is Caton's Island, or Ile Emenenic, where in 1611 a party of traders and adventurers of St. Malo established themselves and traded with the Indians. Their's was the first European settlement in New Brunswick.

Belleisle Bay, opposite the head of the "Mistake," recalls the memory of a celebrated Acadian family who lived on the river two centuries ago.

At Evandale the river suddenly narrows and the scenery alters. On the hill on the east side are the ruins of a fort, built by the British during the war of 1812, on the site of an older French post which was known as Nid d'Aigle - the eagle's nest.

The rugged features of the river are by this time left behind and meadows and grassy islands begin to appear.

As the river valley widens out with the lessening height and more gentle slope of the hills, it will be noticed that the country shows evidence of excellent agricultural qualities and when it is closely examined, it will be seen that it is also especially adapted to orcharding. This latter feature is true as well of all the slopes from Westfield up.

Here may be found flourishing all the varieties of apples that have made the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia famous, and in addition such choice dessert varieties as the McIntosh Red and Famease grow in greatest



FISHING ON A TRIBUTARY OF THE ST. JOHN.

perfection. The fruit lands extend back on either side to the source of nearly all the tributary lakes and Streams.

Passing historic "Long Island" on the right and Ot-nabog Lake on the left the "Halfway Clump" of birch trees will be noticed upon a knoll on the western bank — a striking feature. From there to Gagetown and in fact all along the western bank nearly to Fredericton, are some of the best fruit lands in all Canada. At Burton is a commercial planting of 7,500 trees in one block and other such enterprises are being undertaken.

On the eastern side of the river are many Islands and extensive level tracts formed from rich alluvium brought by the current from the upper courses of the river and continuing for over forty miles form a district unexcelled on the American Continent as a hay, pasture and root-growing country.

The placid little village of Gagetown occupies the site of a French Settlement which was ravaged and burned by General Monckton in 1758. Gagetown, it may here be observed, has visions of future development when the Valley Railway is built. Near Gagetown the St. John makes a sharp turn to the eastward and runs at right angles for a couple of miles in a narrow channel, the navigation of which is not infrequently a matter of difficulty to the masters of sailing craft. The place has long been known as "No Man's Friend".

The Jemseg now joins the St. John from the east. It is a deep, sluggish stream, the outlet of the largest lake in the Province. In prehistoric times the shores of this lake (Grand Lake) were a very favorite resort of the Indians. Many relics of the stone age, including flint, arrow heads and broken pottery, are found at the various campsites. At the junction of the Jemseg with the St. John, the remains of earthworks of an old French fort may yet be seen. This fort was for a short time the headquarters of the Governor of Acadia, the *Sieur de Soulanges*. Here in 1673 was born to the Governor a daughter, Louise Elizabeth, who subsequently married the Governor General of Canada, the *Marquis de Vandreuil*. Her son, a second *Marquis*, ruled at Quebec when the City was taken by Wolfe.

From the Jemseg until we reach the Nashwaak, opposite Fredericton, there are many beautiful Islands. On the left hand the country is varied and undulating, on the right we have the fertile "intervalles" of Sheffield and Maugerville, where for miles there is not a stone to be found and the horses go unshod in the summer time. These meadows were tilled by the French two hundred and thirty years ago. Here also in 1762 was established the first considerable settlement of English speaking people on the river. English and French writers alike have expressed their disapprobation



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, FREDERICTON, N. B.

of the annual inundations characteristic of this region. These "freshets" have advantages and disadvantages. The land is greatly enriched by the overflow; the thrifty farmer, when not engaged in looking after his fences, casts his net and gathers from his fields their first harvest of gaspereaux (herrings).

Ten miles below Fredericton the Oromocto River flows in from the West. This is a very beautiful and romantic stream, rich in historic associations. There is an Indian Village at its mouth.

Near the mouth of the Nashwaak, opposite Fredericton, are the thriving villages of Gibson and St. Marys, and the Town of Marysville. This little river, too, is not without a history, for at its mouth there stood in 1692, Fort Nachouac, the head quarters of the Chevalier Villebon, Governor of Acadia. The fort was besieged by the New Englanders under Colonels Hawthorne and Church, but was successfully defended.

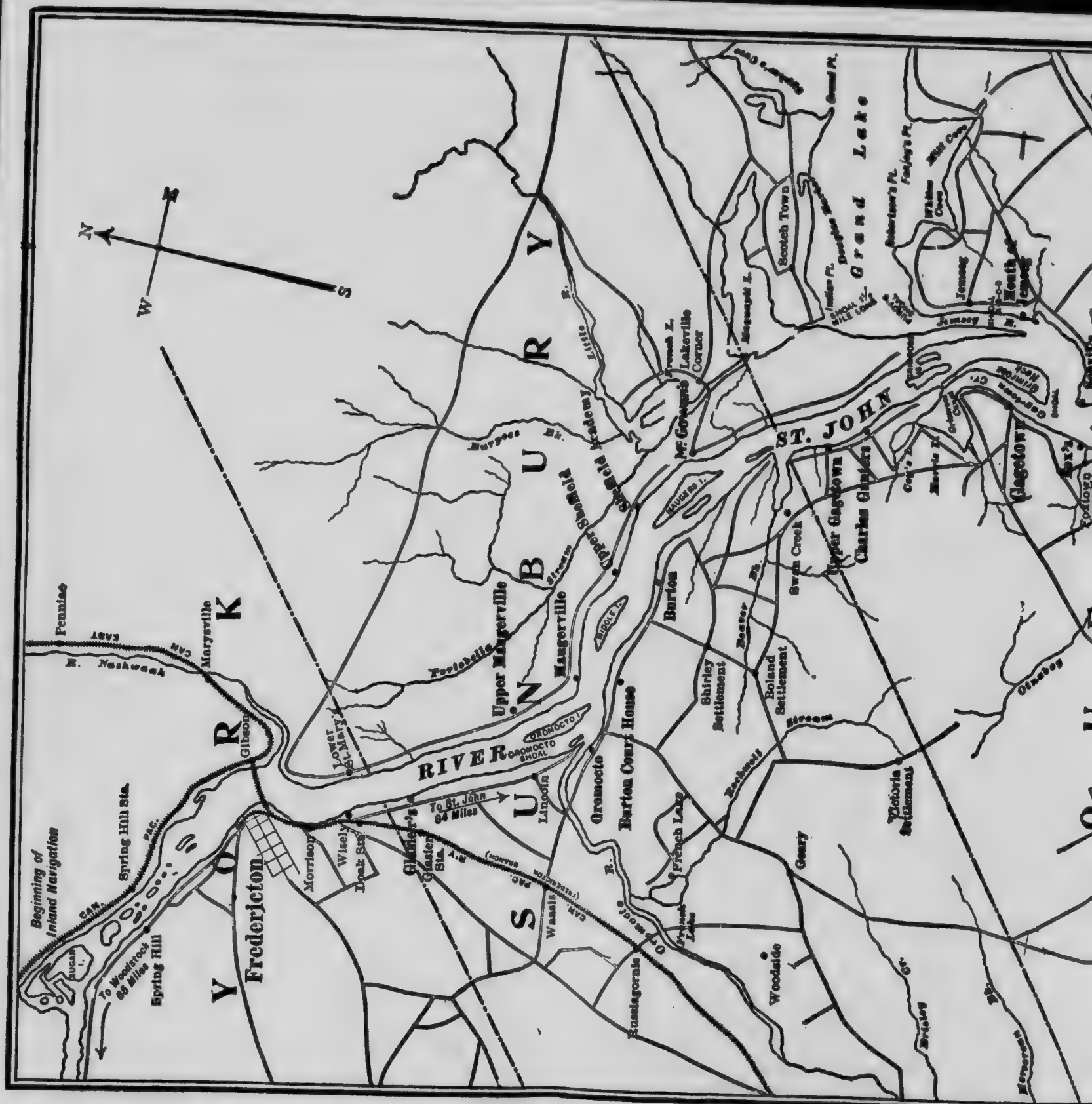
The City of Fredericton, directly opposite, stands on the site of the old French village of St. Anns, destroyed in 1759 by an expedition from the British post at the Mouth of the river. Fredericton is the political, legal and educational centre of New Brunswick. It was founded by the Loyalists who came to the province at the close of the American Revolution. It stands embowered amidst the trees planted by its founders. It is a true Cathedral city, having the distinction of possessing the first Anglican Cathedral built outside the British Isles.

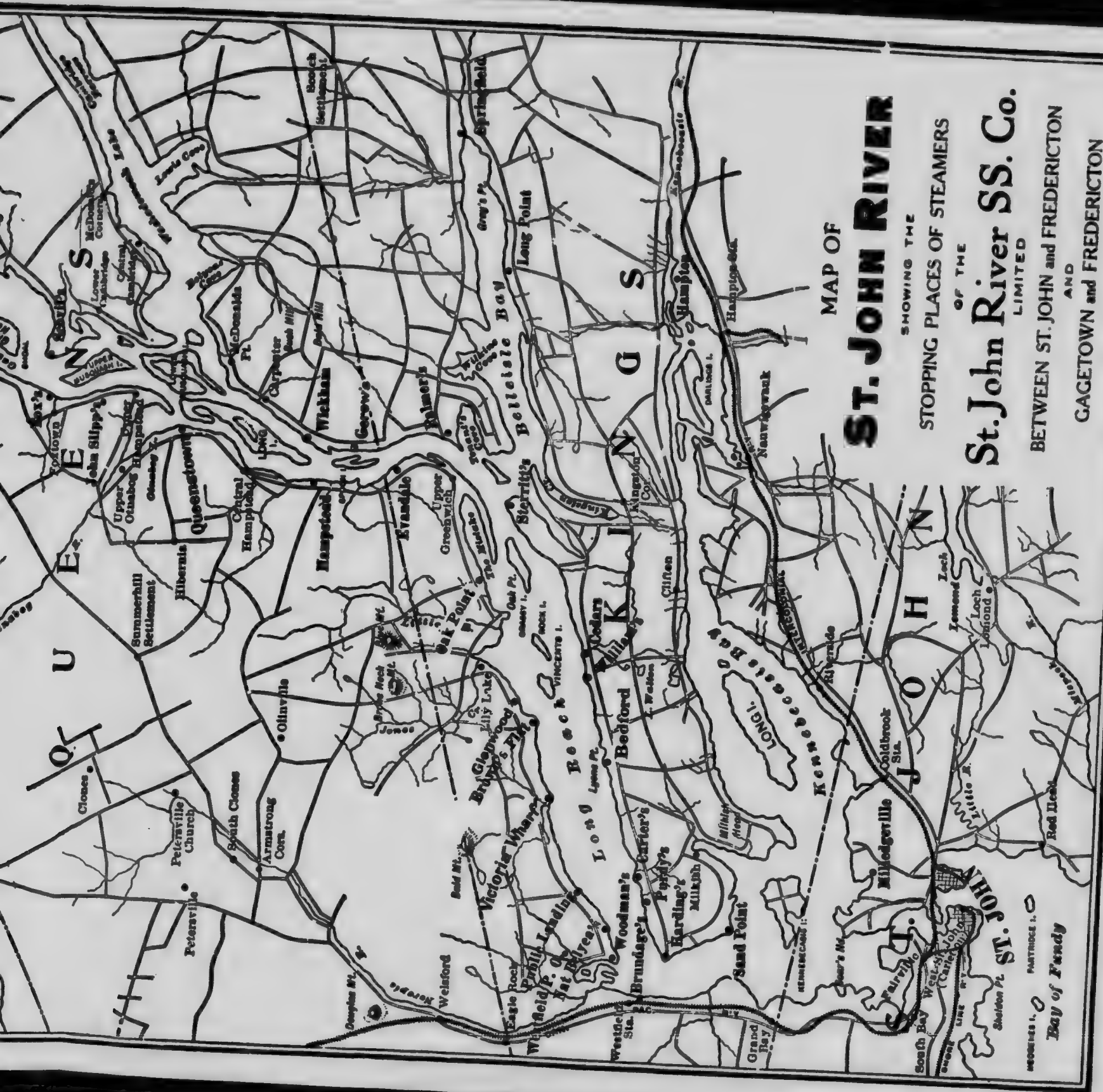
The River St. John has many striking features in its upper parts, but none more notable than the magnificent cataract of the Grand Falls. This when seen will surely leave in the mind of the visitor a vision never to be forgotten.

The St. John has been navigated by steamers to the Grand Falls and even as far as Edmunston, 250 miles from the sea. Steamers also ascend the Kennebecasis, Belleisle, Washademoak and Jemseg rivers to a considerable distance. At various points along the river saw-mills, rafts of logs, piers and booms testify to the magnitude of the "lumber-trade". The value of the forest production exported annually amounts to \$7,000,000.



STEAMER MAY QUEEN.





MAP OF **ST. JOHN RIVER**

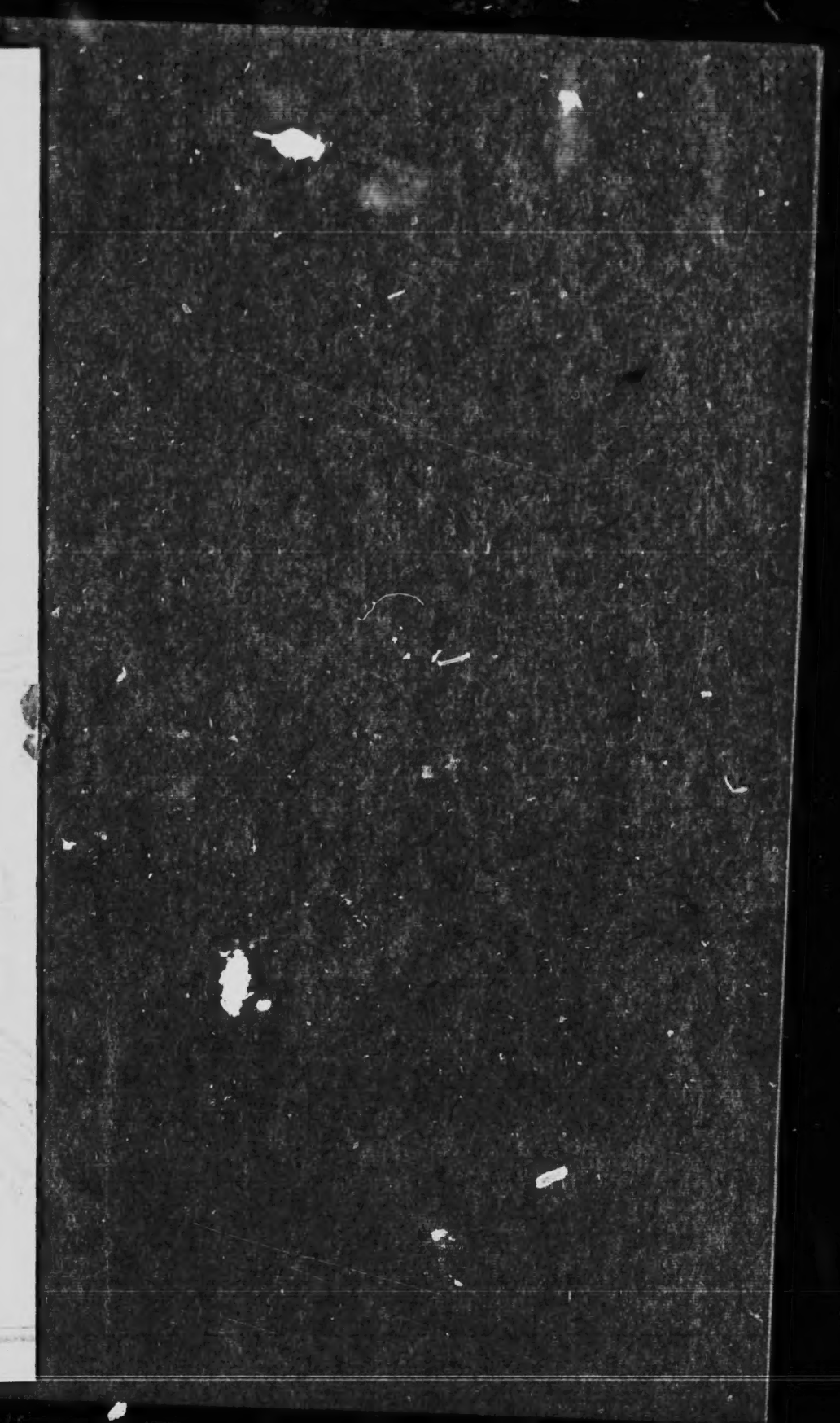
SHOWING THE
STOPPING PLACES OF STEAMERS

OF THE
St. John River S.S. Co.
LIMITED

BETWEEN ST. JOHN and FREDERICTON
AND
GAGETOWN and FREDERICTON

MEADOWS I. O PARTIDGE I. O
Bay of Fundy





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